

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.
WILMINGTON, N. C., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1862.

A REPORT reached here on Saturday night to the effect that the town of Washington, in this State, was captured on Friday last. Our loss was stated at 30 killed and wounded, and the enemy's loss 7. That the enemy got information of the advance of our forces on the town, and that they sent around several gunboats from Newbern to Washington, that they arrived a few hours after we occupied the town, and our forces had to abandon it. We do not know whether there is any foundation for the report or not. It is said our forces held the town about three hours. If so, we trust that many of our loyal citizens were enabled to make good their escape, and get to their friends, where they will have the privilege of breathing more freely than they have been enabled to do since the occupation of Washington by the vandal hosts of the North who have of late ruled over them.

P. S.—The reports from Washington come through so many different sources that there seems to be no doubt of the facts as stated above. We regret to hear that Capt. Booth of the Partisan rangers, who formed a part of the expedition, was amongst the wounded in the engagement. We have been unable to learn whether our losses were sustained in taking the town, or in evacuating it. The enemy were reinforced by about 1000 men and several gunboats from Newbern, as stated above. We trust some friend will send us the particulars in a few days.

The Attack on Washington, N. C.

A highly intelligent and personal friend, who is in the army stationed near Kingston, arrived here last night direct from his camp, informs us that he conversed with Gen. Martin on his return from Washington. Gen. Martin informed him that he took the town on Friday morning, together with several prisoners and three cannon. He held the place for three hours, when the enemy were heavily reinforced by means of their gunboats from Newbern, and he was compelled to abandon the place, with considerable loss. The General did not inform our friend what his loss was, but in coming through our camp below Goldsboro', yesterday morning, he was informed, upon good authority, that the latest intelligence placed it at about 32 killed, 40 wounded and some of our men taken prisoners. We are led to believe that the greater portion of our loss was sustained in the evacuation of the town. We learn that some of the women of Washington have married Yankee officers, and that these delicate sympathizers actually fired at our men from their houses. Whether this latter report be true or not we are not prepared to say, but from the known character of a certain class in that unfortunate town we are inclined to give it credence.

We regret to hear of the loss of so many of our brave men, amongst them none will be more regretted than Capt. Booth, who was mortally wounded and died shortly after, and Capt. Norment who was killed on the battle-field.

On the same day that Gen. Martin took Washington Col. Conoley accompanied Major Nethercut in an expedition in the direction of Newbern. When within seven miles of the town they surprised and took a camp of 15 negroes and two white men, also over \$700 in specie. Proceeding two miles further, (about five miles from Newbern) they routed another camp of Yankees. We did not learn whether Maj. N. succeeded in capturing any of the enemy at the latter camp.

We are pleased to hear that our forces are at work in Eastern North Carolina, and from what may be judged of the character of our commanders and men we have much to hope. The Yankees will probably discover, after a while, that our army are not such very great cowards after all.

P. S.—We learn from a gentleman who has seen and conversed with Capt. McRae, who led our men into Washington, that the most of our loss was sustained in the streets. The enemy got into the houses and fired at them from the windows. Captain McRae was the last to leave the town and is presumed to know the particulars. He reports 17 killed, 37 or 38 wounded, but lost no prisoners. We took 13 prisoners and captured four pieces of artillery, which were brought away.

Washington, N. C.

Much interest being felt in reference to the recent capture and evacuation of Washington by a portion of our troops, we have endeavored to obtain the facts as nearly accurate as possible. The following statement has been prepared for us by a friend, whose facilities for obtaining information are of the best kind:—

This affair at Washington turns out to have been more important in its results than rumor had at first led us to suppose. The great object of the expedition, to wit: the capture of the large number of negroes who had gone there from the surrounding counties, was a failure, because the enemy, getting wind of the movement, had sent them down the river two miles, to Rodman's farm, in flats and boats, and there protected them with a gunboat. But one of the officers was captured, the rest making the best of their way to places of concealment. Of the private tactics, a number of them were dragged out of houses, from behind doors, and out of closets.

Our forces entered the town in three directions, whipped the enemy at every point where they made their appearance, kept possession of the town two or three hours, and retired when there seemed to be nothing further to accomplish, and at their leisure—the enemy no longer making their appearance. It is true that the gunboat *Louisiana* picked up and down the river, firing occasionally up the cross streets, and to have held further possession of the place would probably have endangered the lives of hundreds of women and children. It is not true that our forces were driven from the place.

The enemy's gunboat *Picket* took fire early in the action, exploded her magazine, killing twenty of her men, and burned to the water's edge. It is not known how she was set on fire.

A merchant of intelligence, who left Washington on Monday succeeding the fight, says the enemy's acknowledged loss is one hundred and sixty. This does not include the prisoners captured by us. Quite a number of houses in the western end of the town were shattered by the enemy's shell, and some were riddled by shot from our own battery. No woman was killed, and but one, a Mrs. Redding, was slightly wounded.

Our infantry entered the town at the west, through the field of James R. Grist, and first encountered the enemy at the back of his barn. They (the enemy) were driven from there, and our forces charged up Main Street and Second Street, meeting at the Academy on Bridge Street, where the battery of four guns were captured. Most of the fighting took place on Bridge Street, between the Academy and the foot of the bridge, where the enemy had planted a battery. They were driven from it three or four times.

Tucker's and Booth's cavalry behaved nobly. Booth was wounded badly (it is hoped not mortally) early in the action. Tucker charged down Back Street, routing the enemy's cavalry at the African church, killing eight pickets at the foot of the Williamson road, and then taking the circuit of the town charged up the entire length of Main Street, doing much damage to the enemy. A Lieutenant was killed by this force in front of the Lafayette Hotel. Adam's battery entered town about midway from the back street, and did some firing but was not in the hottest of the engagement. They also traversed a considerable portion of the town.

Some of the cavalry here, as elsewhere, behaved badly. Portions of the infantry in the street fights were thrown into confusion and were hard to rally. Most of the forces fought bravely, and have shed lustre on our arms.

Captain Stephen D. Poole had command of all the forces in the fight, General Martin remaining at Quarry's Run bridge, three miles from town. Our loss is seventeen killed and thirty-eight wounded. The loss on both sides shows that there was hard fighting. Our men were shot mostly from the houses.

The news by telegraph and the mails last night is highly important, if it should hereafter be confirmed, as a fixed fact, that two divisions of Gen. Lee's army have actually gone into Maryland. We know nothing more about the matter than what we glean from the Richmond and Lynchburg papers. We only hope the report may prove true. We extract from the *Enquirer* of Monday, 8th inst., the following:—

Yesterday being Sunday, the usual variety of rumors were afloat. Those which gained most credence were the following: That Generals Jackson and Longstreet had crossed the Potomac at Edwards's Ferry, and were at the Relay House on Friday morning last. There may be some truth in this rumor, as the account published in another column from a Yankee journal shows that the greatest panic prevailed in the Yankee capital; and old Abraham doubtless has his high camp at hand, ready to make his exit.

If Generals Jackson and Longstreet have really reached the Relay House, all communication between Washington and Baltimore, and the West, is thereby entirely cut off. The reported blowing up of the Long Bridge is now generally believed. A lady who came through this city from near Washington, states that she was an eye-witness to the affair.

The enemy, before evacuating Aquia Creek, destroyed a large amount of stores and provisions.

Later intelligence gives us the gratifying assurance that General Jackson has entered Maryland, by the route above indicated, and is now on his way to the most important point in this campaign, Baltimore and Washington. It is useless now to speculate upon probabilities. The war has assumed a new phase, and our citizens must expect hereafter to hear news that will state the progress of the campaign, and the progress of the war.

The passage of the Thoroughfare Gap by Gen. Longstreet, in the face of a force of two thousand of the enemy, is one of the most remarkable incidents of the late operations in Northern Virginia. The defile is a very difficult one, being densely wooded, very narrow, and flanked by high and precipitous mountains. The enemy had possessed this, planted his batteries and erected his sharpshooters and infantry. Gen. Longstreet quickly drove them away, with a loss of twenty killed and a number of wounded on the part of the enemy, and only three wounded on ours.

Latest and Important from the West and Maryland.

The news comes in most gloriously. Our army is known to have taken possession of Covington, Kentucky, immediately opposite Cincinnati, and that the surrender of the city has been demanded. Two hours were given the Mayor to give an answer. He asked for four hours, which was granted.

This is glory enough for this day—and we would be willing to rest here for a while, but really we cannot afford to stop. The news from Maryland is still better. Our army is known to have been at Frederick, Md., on the 7th inst., and it is said it reached the Relay House on yesterday. It is also reported that the City of Baltimore have risen and attacked the United States troops. The whole State is in a blaze, and volunteers are rushing to our army.

On the 7th inst., the telegraph wires were down on yesterday north of this place, and we were unable to get any dispatches from Richmond.

The following editorial from the Richmond *Enquirer* of the 9th inst., confirms the reports relative to the advance of our army into Maryland:—

From our Army in Maryland.
The report of the entrance of our army into Maryland, published on yesterday, is confirmed by intelligence received last evening. The general advance of the army, selected from our combined forces, took place on Friday, and the "crossing of the Rubicon" was accomplished in excellent order. On the Thursday evening preceding, General Stuart advanced with his command within eight miles of Alexandria, and made a feint upon the enemy's lines. Pope fancying that a general attack was meditated, placed his army in preparation, and held them in line of battle during the night, sleeping on their arms. When morning came, Gen. Stuart had disappeared.

The intervening time had been occupied by our troops in pushing on to Edwards's Ferry, where they crossed with little difficulty, the Potomac being very low, and no enemy appearing to oppose their progress. The men were exultant as they dashed into the stream, and became inspired with the most sanguine expectations of the speedy discomfiture of Maryland and the downfall of the Federal Capital. Of their operations after crossing we can, of course, say as yet nothing. We might present presumptions, but these the reader can invent for himself, if he is at all familiar with the lines of communication running out of Washington to the North and West.

DEATH OF MAJOR JOHN C. BOOTH.—We grieve to record the death of this gentleman, commandant of the Arsenal at this place, which occurred on Saturday morning last. He had resided among us for a little more than a year, during which he had secured the respect and regard of a large circle of whom his social qualities and extensive public business had made him well known. He was a graduate of West Point, a gentleman of decided ability, and of as large and comprehensive views as any one whom it has been our fortune to know, and if his health had been good and his life spared, it would have been his pride and pleasure to make the Arsenal here the great reservoir from which the Confederacy should draw its means of offense and defense.

Maj. Booth was born in Macon, Ga., June 4, 1827. He leaves a wife and four children.

Fayetteville Observer, 8th inst.
The above announcement does not come suddenly or unexpectedly, for Major Booth's health had been such for months past as to render recovery hopeless, and even any considerable prolongation of life impossible. Yet we had hoped that he might have been spared to know and realize the brighter prospects which are opening upon the country which he loved so well, and in whose cause, we believe, he sacrificed his life as certainly as did any man who has fallen upon the battle-field.

When hostilities actually broke out, Major, then Captain Booth, was in charge of the Arsenal at Baton Rouge, La., from which, at the commencement of the struggle, was drawn a large portion of the supplies of fixed ammunition for the armies of the infant Confederacy. Captain Booth's patriotic ardor led him, at this time, to greatly overtax the energies of a system never robust, and no doubt the over-exertion and exposure at this period developed, if they did not plant the seeds of the disease, (consumption) which has resulted in his early death.

Of fine intellect, high professional attainments, chivalrous honor and ardent patriotism, Major Booth was an ornament to the service. His untimely death is a loss to the country which, among all her sons, has none better or braver than John C. Booth.

We are sorry to find that the "reliable gentleman," who comes down the road and gives information to the Richmond and Lynchburg papers, is no more trustworthy than he used to be. All the stories circulated last week about the capture of Cumberland Gap, and of the Yankee forces there, are summarily put to rest by the *Knoxville Register*, of the 7th inst. (Sunday), which says: "The Richmond and Lynchburg papers contain rumors of the evacuation of this stronghold, or the surrender of the Federal forces there, which we presume are premature. Our latest advices from there represent things in statu quo, and everything quiet. What the programme of our troops is in relation to the besieged has not yet been developed."

The S. C. State Convention met at Columbia yesterday. It was called together by General Jamison, its President, at the written request of twenty members. A strong effort will be made to adjourn the Convention sine die, and dissolve the Executive Council.

RAGS.—We were started a few days ago by information that the people have so far ceased to save or to bring their rags to market, that one of the largest paper mills in the State has been obliged to stop and send agents to scour the State in search of rags; and that there is danger that the mill in this vicinity may also be under the necessity of suspending operations for the same cause. We call the attention of our readers to the subject, and urge them to send forward their rags.—*Fayetteville Observer*.

We see no necessity for the paper mills of the State stopping for the want of rags, for if our people have become so very careless as not to save their rags, which are no small item, the mills can scotch them. Nobody cut cotton will cost more per pound, but nevertheless the people must have the news, and printers cannot print without paper. We must have paper. We trust Mr. Murphy will provide for us all.

WE ARE INDEBTED TO SOME UNKIND FRIEND for copy of the New York *Herald* of the 25th ult. We find in it two long letters from Newbern, N. C., under dates of the 12th and 21st of August, giving an account of the Yankee raid on Swansboro', Onslow county.—Also the situation of affairs about Kingston. On the 12th, the *Herald's* correspondent writes as follows:—

There is reason to believe that the rebels are evacuating Kingston, with the intention of making a stand at the Forks of the Roanoke, and the passage of our batteries at Vicksburg will be found interesting. The reader will not fail to notice the fact that in his own private account Lieut. Erben acknowledges a loss of fifteen, but in his report to Flag-Officer Davis, written only the day after, he is happy to inform that officer that he passed our batteries "without any casualties to our men, and without the loss of a single gun." Here is a palpable contradiction of state, and we are left to conjecture, beyond the power of logic to dispute, of having unintentionally furnished the world with an anti-evidence of the peculiar idiosyncrasies of the race. We, of course, believe his private statement, as he is certainly had no object in misleading himself. We quote:—

July 15th.—At 6 A. M., was called by officer of the post reporting heavy firing up the river. Soon saw the gunboats of the Union fleet, and the point firing her guns. Soon a rebel boat, the *Arkansas*, bore in sight. All the vessels prepared for action and commenced firing. My vessel being under repairs, had no steam up. Repairing outboard delivery pipes neglected at Cairo. Commenced getting steam. Kept up a fire on the *Arkansas* as she passed. The *Arkansas*, after passing the fleet, turned round and opened fire on our gunboats. We returned our fire with our main battery, and our gunboats. The *Arkansas*, followed by the *Chickamauga* and *Louisville*, followed the *Arkansas* down, engaging her. Heron came up with shot, losing several killed and wounded. Tyler 8 killed and 10 wounded. Cannon 30 killed and 10 wounded.

Mad preparations during the day for running past the batteries at Vicksburg. At 6 p. m. orders to follow the fleet, and run the *Arkansas* down and sink her. 6:25 P. M., got headway and stood down the river. Soon got under a heavy fire of musketry—ports opened with shot, shell and grape. Passed close under the bank receiving a heavy fire from the rebels. One 10 inch shell burst in the hull, tearing up the side and deck, and killing three men, including the pilot, and wounding the port wheel—both wheels were riddled with small shot. Stopped the engine and drifted by the lower batteries in hopes of finding the *Arkansas*, but was unable to do so, it being quite dark and the smoke very thick. Steamed on and joined the fleet below. Total loss, killed and wounded, fifteen. Anchored for the night.

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Respectfully, &c.

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It is known to our readers that the United States military forces of New Orleans made quite a stir over the pretended body of Gen. Williams. The "Delta" gave a long account of the funeral ceremonies, and stated that the body of Gen. Williams was placed upon the steamer *Santa Rosa* of the West and carried to its far off home in the North. The following extract, however, shows that all this lugubrious parade was merely a Yankee "stratagem":—

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BACKS JAIL.—The Tarboro' Southern says that three prisoners escaped from the jail in that town on Thursday last—Kit Lewis, of Martin county, confined on a charge of attempt to commit a rape, and Joel Ward and his son Thomas, from Pitt, on a charge of disloyalty.

We learn that in the fight at Manassas, on the 30th ult., General Branch's brigade is reported to have lost about 30 men killed and about 100 wounded. This, our informant says, is as near the number of casualties as could be ascertained, without the official lists.

From the Jackson Mississippi.
Interesting Extracts from the Log Book of the Yankee Gunboat Sunk.

Among the trophies taken from the Yankee gunboat *Sunk*, recently captured and destroyed by our forces at Bayou Sara, is the log book kept by Lieut. Henry Erben, Jr., commanding that ill-starred vessel. The *Sunk* originally belonged to us, but was captured in the naval engagement near Memphis, previous to the fall of that city. Lieut. Erben was then placed in command of her; when she was towed up to Cairo, and after undergoing some repairs, was brought down to participate in the siege of Vicksburg.

FIGHT WITH THE ARKANSAS.

The following private and public accounts of the contest with the *Arkansas* and the passage of our batteries at Vicksburg will be found interesting. The reader will not fail to notice the fact that in his own private account Lieut. Erben acknowledges a loss of fifteen, but in his report to Flag-Officer Davis, written only the day after, he is happy to inform that officer that he passed our batteries "without any casualties to our men, and without the loss of a single gun." Here is a palpable contradiction of state, and we are left to conjecture, beyond the power of logic to dispute, of having unintentionally furnished the world with an anti-evidence of the peculiar idiosyncrasies of the race. We, of course, believe his private statement, as he is certainly had no object in misleading himself. We quote:—

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FOR THE JOURNAL.
CAPT. 3RD REGIMENT, 20TH P. M. G. T., under command of Col. Alfred Iverson, being ordered to advance in the direction of the Williamsburg road, proceeded with the other regiments composing the brigade to a point within about a mile of the enemy's position. The regiment was exposed for about an hour to a very heavy fire of shell from the enemy's batteries, by which about 2 men were killed, and a number of the men taking any active part in the severe skirmishing in front. We then moved forward to a line of breastworks where we remained, still in reserve, until the enemy's batteries were ordered to return to camp, to provide three days' ration, and by preparing to march at 11 A. M. At that hour in the following morning (26th June) the regiment proceeded by the Mechanicsville road, towards the Chickamauga, till the bridge was reached, where it had been destroyed by the enemy. We were then ordered to cross the bridge, which had been destroyed by the enemy, and had been sufficiently repaired, in order to move on. When we were formed in line of battle, within a short distance of Mechanicsville, in an open field in rear of, and close to, one of our batteries, which was pouring a heavy fire into the enemy's works in front, they replied by a heavy fire, which did not lower our spirits, but only a little damage. At daybreak we entered the village of Mechanicsville, where we were ordered to halt for an hour, during which time the enemy's batteries were ordered to retire, distant about half a mile, shelling the houses and especially our hospital, in which there were many wounded men. We were now ordered to move on, and reached a point about half a mile beyond the village, where we were ordered to halt for an hour, during which time the enemy's batteries were ordered to retire, distant about half a mile, shelling the houses and especially our hospital, in which there were many wounded men. We were now ordered to move on, and reached a point about half a mile beyond the village, where we were ordered to halt for an hour, during which time the enemy's batteries were ordered to retire, distant about half a mile,